

A NEW *PSEUDOMELATOMA* FROM CALIFORNIA

BY TOM BURCH

Recently the author dredged a series of shells off Redondo Beach that are apparently living representatives of Grant and Gale's *Pseudomelatomia penicillata* var. *semiinflata*. There are certain differences, however, and in studying the shells with M. Gordon, G. Willett, and U. S. Grant, the following differences between *P. penicillata* and its variety *semiinflata* were observed: The typical form is covered by a thin brown periostracum, while the living specimens of *semiinflata* are covered by a very hard, heavy, black periostracum. Both the inner and outer lips of *semiinflata* have a heavy white callus, while neither lip of *Penicillata* has a callus. The most outstanding differences between the two forms are that *semiinflata* has a secondary notch on the outer lip near the canal, and prominent spiral sculpture on the base of the penultimate whorl, neither of which is found on *P. penicillata*. Also, the periphery and base of the penultimate whorl on *semiinflata* is much more gently rounded. Because of these and other minor differences, the author thinks it advisable to raise the variety *semiinflata* to a species.

Although the series shows a slight variation in the number of ribs, the author presents the following variety:

Pseudomelatomia semiinflata var. *redondoensis* n. var. Fig. 2.

Shell brown under a black periostracum. Longitudinal sculpture consisting of 14 low, slightly oblique ribs, weaker than on typical *semiinflata* and evanescing below the periphery of the penultimate whorl. Whorls of spire subangular just anterior to the suture. Spiral sculpture more prominent on the base than on spire and consisting of slightly raised lirae.

Dimensions: alt. 45 mm.; length of aperture, 18 mm.; diameter of body whorl, 12 mm.

Holotype: number 381, Allan Hancock Foundation Collection. Dredged in 25 fathoms on gravel bottom off Redondo Beach, California, May 8, 1938, by T. A. Burch, J. Q. Burch, and M. Gordon. Nineteen other specimens were dredged at the same locality during the winter of 1937-38. These paratypes have been distributed to the Academy of Natural Sciences at Philadelphia, No. 170481,

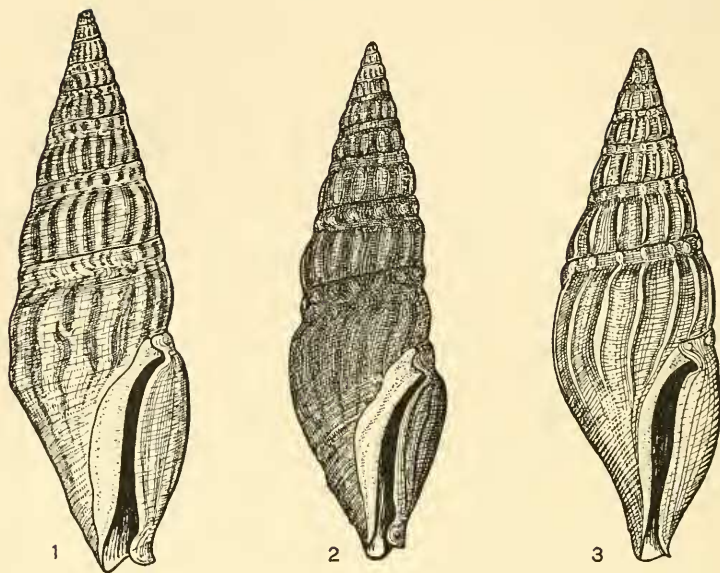


FIG. 1. *Pseudomelatoma semiinflata* Grant and Gale, from Pleistocene of Baldwin Hills, Calif. FIG. 2. *Pseudomelatoma semiinflata redondoensis* n. var., type specimen from 25 fathoms off Redondo Beach, Calif. FIG. 3. *Pseudomelatoma penicillata* (Carp.), from Scammon's Lagoon, L. C.

U. S. National Museum, California Academy of Sciences, and to the collections of G. Willett, U. S. Grant IV, M. Gordon, P. Connolly, and T. & J. Burch. One specimen was dredged by the author off Avalon, California in 25 fathoms, another by the Kerckhoff Laboratories off Newport Bay, California, and still another was collected at low tide in Newport Bay by Mr. Whitmore of Redondo Beach.

THE TYPE OF *POLYGYRA* SAY

BY H. A. PILSBRY

Although the selection of a genotype for *Polygyra* was considered briefly by the writer in 1930 (Proc. Acad. Nat. Sci. Phila. 82: 311) and by Dr. Harald A. Rehder in 1936 (NAUTILUS 49: 102), it appears that some further notes are needed for a full understanding of the matter.